

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please substitute claims 1-13 as follows. As required by 37 C.F.R. §1.121, marked copies of the claims showing amendments for claims 1-13 are listed below.

- A2  
Sub  
B1
1. (Amended) A coating composition comprising at least four components,
- (I) a component comprising at least one oligomeric or polymeric resin containing functional groups that react with isocyanate groups as binder,
  - (II) a component comprising at least one polyisocyanate as crosslinking agent,
  - (III) a component that comprises water and is substantially free from acrylate copolymers dispersed or dissolved therein, and
  - (IV) a finely divided solid component that comprises at least one water-soluble or -dispersible finely divided solid acrylate copolymer.

2. (Amended) A process for producing a coating composition comprising at least four components by mixing of the components, application of the resulting coating composition to the surface that is to be coated, and curing of the resulting wet film, which comprises

- 1) mixing at least one component (I) comprising at least one oligomeric or polymeric resin containing functional groups that react with isocyanate groups, with at least one component (II) comprising at least one polyisocyanate, to give a mixture (I/II);
- 2) mixing at least one component (III) that comprises water and is substantially free from acrylate copolymers dissolved or dispersed therein with at least one finely divided solid component (IV) that comprises at least one water-soluble or -dispersible, finely divided solid acrylate copolymer, to give the mixture (III/IV); and
- 3) one of
  - (a) at least one of dispersing and dissolving the mixture (I/II) in the mixture (III/IV);
  - (b) at least one of dispersing and dissolving the mixture (III/IV) in the mixture (I/II),to give the coating composition (I/II/III/IV).

A2  
cont  
Sub  
B2

3. (Amended) The coating composition of claim 1, wherein the finely divided solid component (IV) is preparable by at least one of

- i) spray-drying solutions, emulsions, or dispersions of the acrylate copolymers;
- ii) freeze-drying of solutions, emulsions, or dispersions of the acrylate copolymers;
- iii) precipitation of acrylate copolymers from their solution, dispersion or emulsion;
- iv) emulsion polymerization of the acrylate copolymers;
- v) precipitation polymerization of the acrylate copolymers; and
- vi) grinding of the acrylate copolymers.

4. (Amended) The coating composition of claim 1, wherein the functional groups that react with isocyanate groups comprise hydroxyl groups.

5. (Amended) The coating composition of claim 1, wherein component (III) further comprises at least one binder.

6. (Amended) The coating composition of claim 1, wherein at least one of i) component (I) comprises at least one water-soluble or -dispersible binder, and ii) component (III) comprises at least one water-dissolved or water-dispersed binder.

7. (Amended) The coating composition of claim 6, wherein the binders comprise at least one of

- (i) functional groups that can be converted into cations by at least one of neutralizing agents and quaternizing agents,
- (ii) functional groups that are cationic groups,
- (iii) functional groups that can be converted into anions by neutralizing agents
- (iv) functional groups that are anionic groups, and
- (v) nonionic hydrophilic groups.

8. (Amended) The coating composition of claim 7, wherein the binders contain at least one of carboxylic acid groups and carboxylate groups.

9. (Amended) The coating composition of claim 8, wherein component (I) comprises at least one of the following as binders

(A1) at least one acrylate copolymer that is dispersible or soluble in one or more organic, optionally water-dilutable solvents, contains hydroxyl groups and at least one of carboxylic acid groups and carboxylate groups, and has a number average molecular weight Mn of between 1000 and 30,000 daltons, an OH number of from 40 to 200 mg KOH/g, and an acid number of from 5 to 150 mg KOH/g,

(A2) at least one polyester resin that is dispersible or soluble in one or more organic, optionally water-dilutable solvents, contains hydroxyl groups at least one of carboxylic acid groups and carboxylate groups, and has a number average molecular weight Mn of between 1000 and 30,000 daltons, an OH number of from 30 to 250 mg KOH/g, and an acid number of from 5 to 150 mg KOH/g, and

(A3) at least one polyurethane resin that is dispersible or soluble in one or more organic, optionally water-dilutable solvents, contains hydroxyl groups and at least one of carboxylic acid groups and carboxylate groups, and has a number average molecular weight Mn of between 1000 and 30,000 daltons, an OH number of from 20 to 200 mg KOH/g, and an acid number of from 5 to 150 mg KOH/g; and

component (III) comprises as binders at least one of the polyester resins (A2) and the polyurethane resins (A3), and

component (IV) comprises as binder the acrylate copolymer (A1).

10. (Amended) The coating composition of claim 1, wherein some of the binders in component (III) are powder slurry particles.

11. (Amended) The coating composition of claim 1, wherein the coating composition is applied as a coating in at least one of an automotive OEM finish, a refinish, a plastic coating, a topcoat, and a primer-surfacer.

A2  
cont.

12. (Amended) A coating prepared from the coating composition of claim 1.
  13. (Amended) An article comprising a coating, wherein the coating is prepared from the coating composition of claim 1.
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Please insert the following new claims:

14. (New) The process of claim 2, wherein the finely divided solid component (IV) is preparable by at least one of
- i) spray-drying solutions, emulsions, or dispersions of the acrylate copolymers;
  - ii) freeze-drying of solutions, emulsions, or dispersions of the acrylate copolymers;
  - iii) precipitation of acrylate copolymers from their solution, dispersion or emulsion;
  - iv) emulsion polymerization of the acrylate copolymers;
  - v) precipitation polymerization of the acrylate copolymers; and
  - vi) grinding of the acrylate copolymers.
15. (New) The process of claim 2, wherein the functional groups that react with isocyanate groups comprise hydroxyl groups.
16. (New) The process of claim 2, wherein component (iii) further comprises at least one binder.
17. (New) The process of claim 2, wherein at least one of i) component (I) comprises at least one water-soluble or -dispersible binder, and ii) component (III) comprises at least one water-dissolved or water-dispersed binder.
18. (New) The process of claim 17, wherein the binders comprise at least one of
- (i) functional groups that can be converted into cations by at least one of neutralizing agents and quaternizing agents,
  - (ii) functional groups that are cationic groups,
  - (iii) functional groups that can be converted into anions by neutralizing agents
  - (iv) functional groups that are anionic groups, and
  - (v) nonionic hydrophilic groups.
19. (New) The process of claim 18, wherein the binders contain at least one of carboxylic acid groups and carboxylate groups.

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